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SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG™



DARKEST
STORM
PART 2 OF 3



SPAZ

THE DARKEST STORM

Part Two: ONSET OF THE SQUALL

Writer: IAN FLYNN
Pencils: JAMES FRY
Inks: JIM AMASH
Colors: JASON JENSEN
Letters: JOHN WORKMAN
Cover Artist:
PATRICK "SPAZ" SPAZIANTE
Editor: MIKE PELLERITO
Managing Editor:
VICTOR GORELICK
Editor-in-Chief:
RICHARD GOLDWATER
Special thanks to
Robert Beffler
and **Dyna Lopez**
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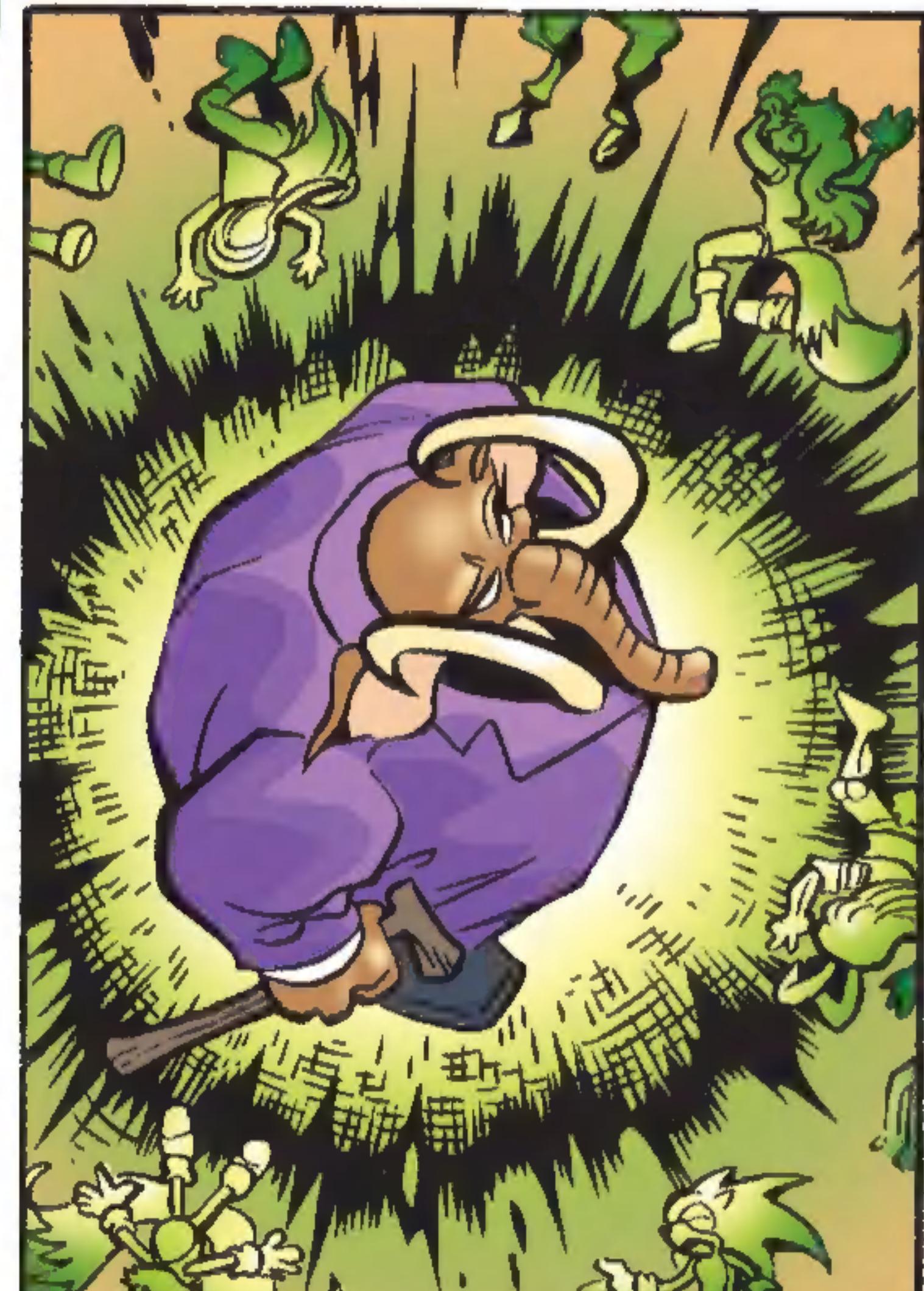
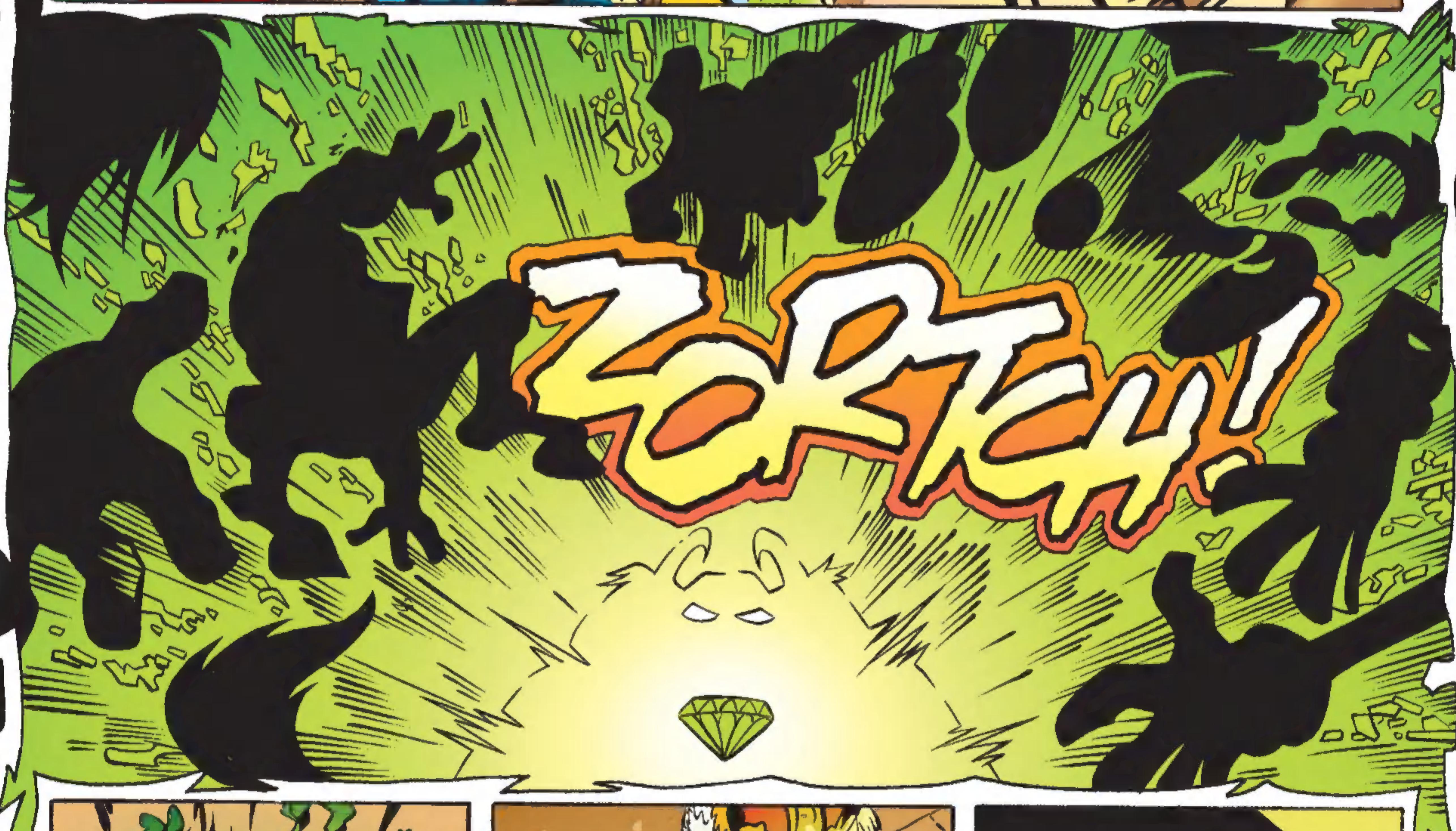


"THE ANCIENT WALKERS ARE DEAD!"

WHAT'S WITH THE SHIELD, CHUBBY?

NOT SUCH A BIG-SHOT WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE SO MUCH CHAOS ENERGY?

YOU WILL RUE THE DAY YOU SLEW THE NOBLEST BEINGS TO GRACE MOBIUS!



NEW MEGAOPOLIS--EGG GRAPE CHAMBER.

MAMMOTH MOGUL WAS FREED BY THE DEATH OF THE ANCIENT WALKERS.

HAS THE EGG GRAPE CHAMBER COOLED DOWN, A.D.A.M.?

YES, FATHER. I DO NOT THINK YOU WISH TO RETURN JUST YET.

THE ANCIENT WALKERS WERE KILLED BY THE BREACH OF ANOTHER DIMENSION.

OF COURSE YOU DON'T THINK! YOU ANALYZE AND PROCESS! NOW OPEN THAT DOOR!

YES, FATHER!

THE DIMENSIONAL BREACH RELEASED ANOTHER DEADLY PLAYER INTO MY PLANS--

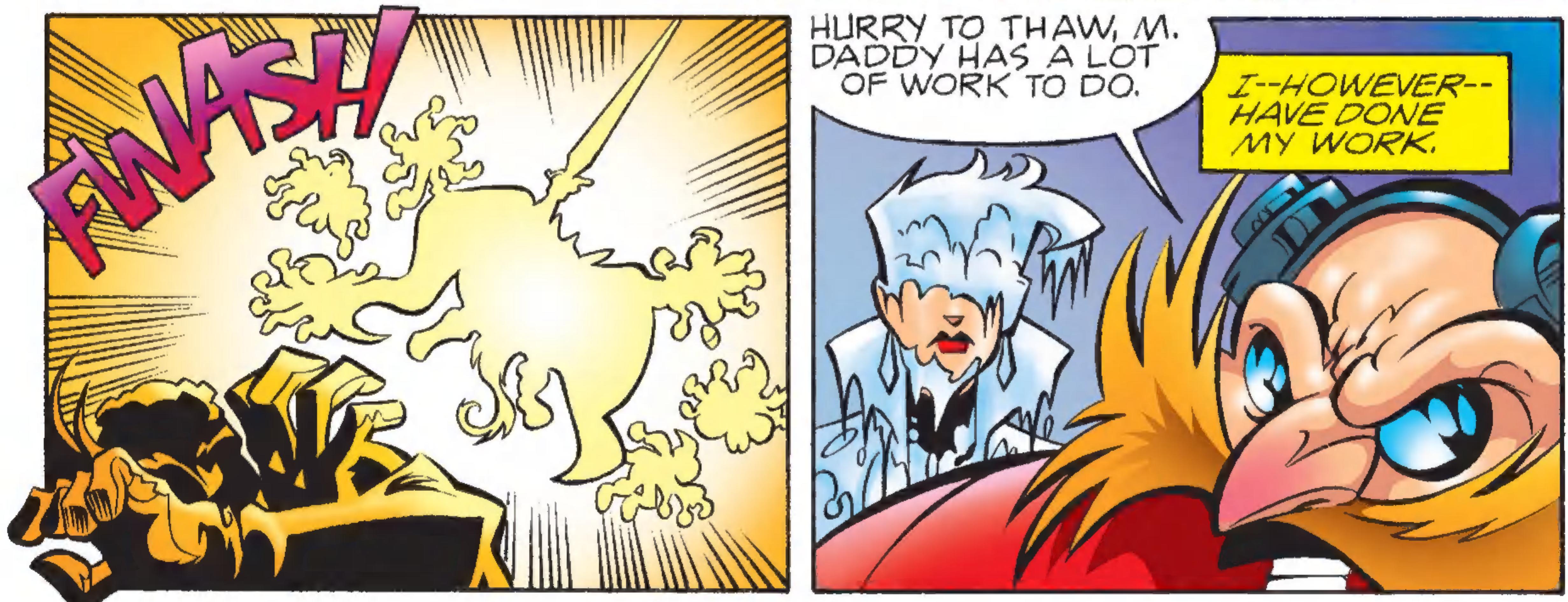
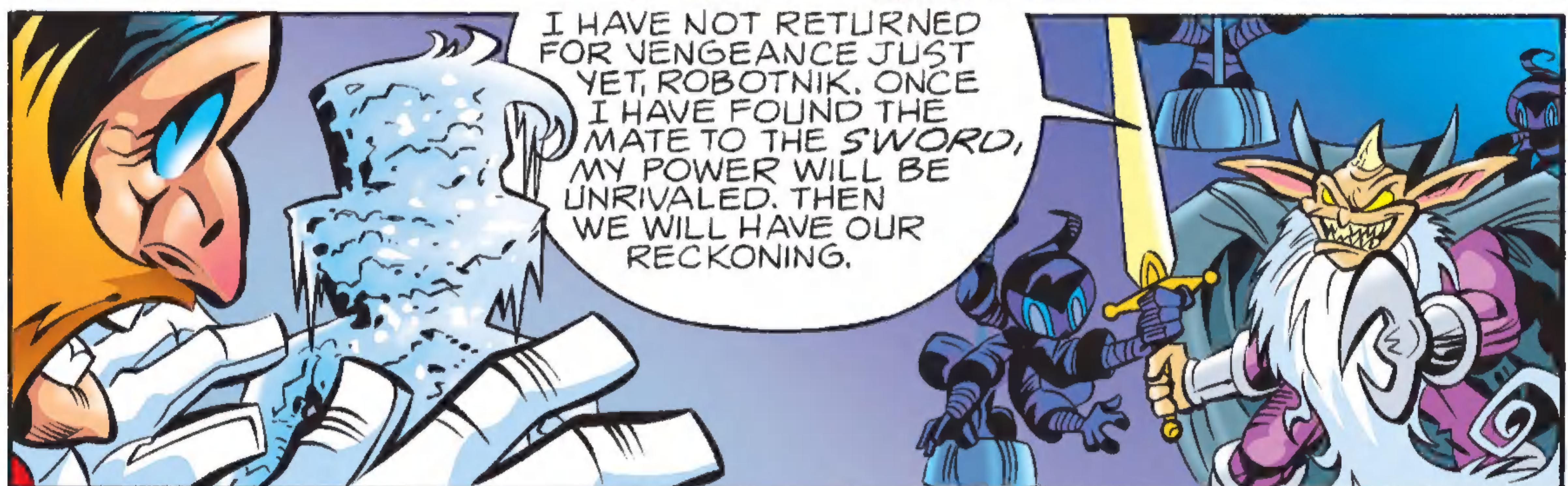
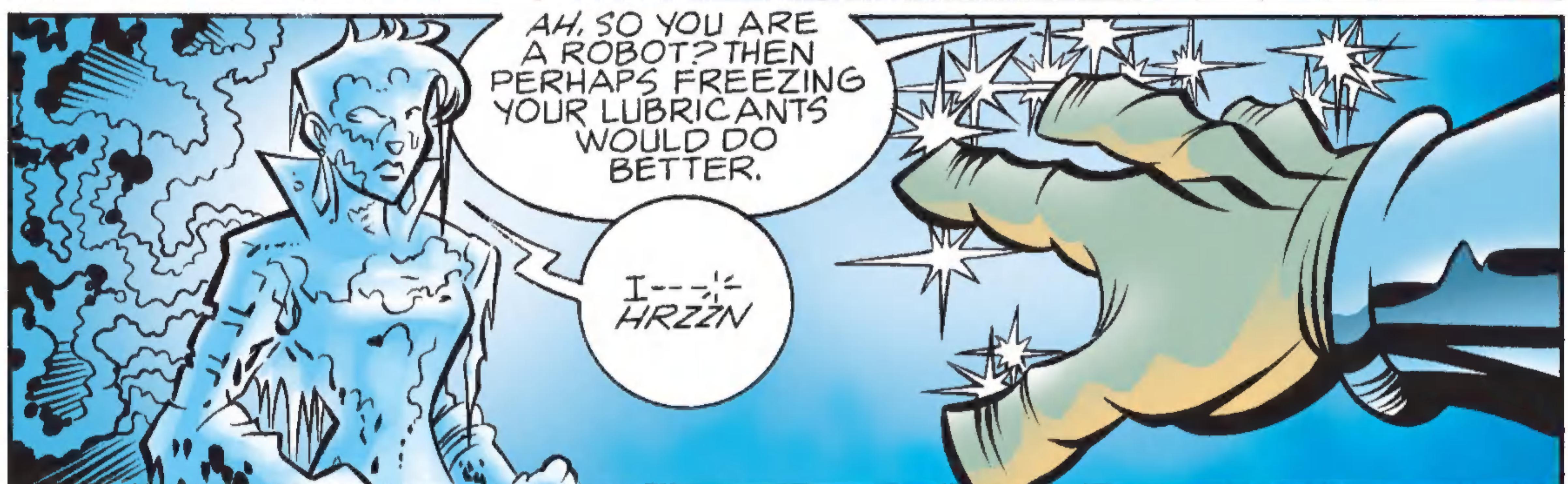
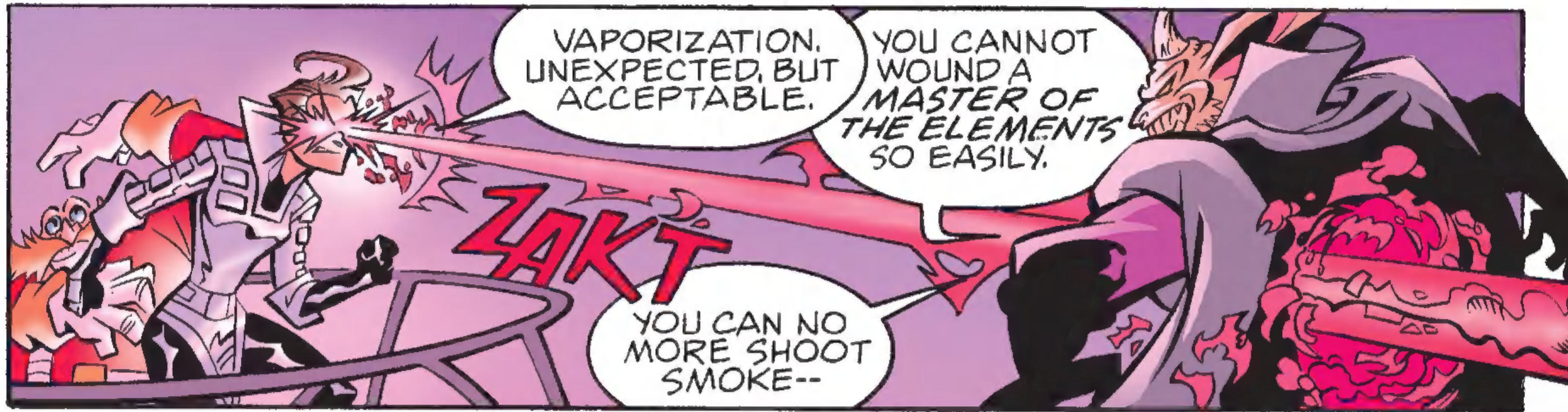
EGAD!

IXIS NAUGUS!

DOCTOR ROBOTNIK. YOU'VE LOST WEIGHT.

M! BE A GOOD GIRL AND ROAST DADDY'S HATED NEMESIS!

WITH PLEASURE, FATHER.



THE PLAYERS ARE SET.

ALL I MUST DO IS WAIT AND WATCH.

WOW, I SURE REGRET NOT STICKING WITH YOU GUYS!*

*SEE SONIC # 68.

BIG BAD FEARSOME FOURSOME--NO, EXCUSE ME, DESTRUCTIX--GOT THROWN IN THE SLAMMER IN RECORD TIME!
BWAHAHA HA!

WHAT IS THAT LIGHT...

HOLY...!

SEE YOU LATER.

YOUR DESTRUCTIX PLEDGE THEIR LIVES TO YOU ONCE MORE, LORD MOGUL.

DESTRUCTIX? HOW...QUAINT.

RISE, MY MINIONS. A MONUMENTAL QUEST LIES BEFORE US TO ACQUIRE THE **SWORD OF ACORNS** WE SHALL BEGIN SEARCHING--

AH, KNOTHOLE! IT HAS GROWN PROSPEROUS. OF COURSE, THE **CROWN OF ACORNS** WOULD BE HERE.

HOW SERENDIPITOUS. THE ACQUISITION OF THE **SWORD OF ACORNS** HAS BECOME INFINITELY LESS ONEROUS.

FNAK

AH!

YOU! HAND OVER THAT RELIC! I WILL POSSESS THE LAST OF THE **SOURCE OF ALL!**

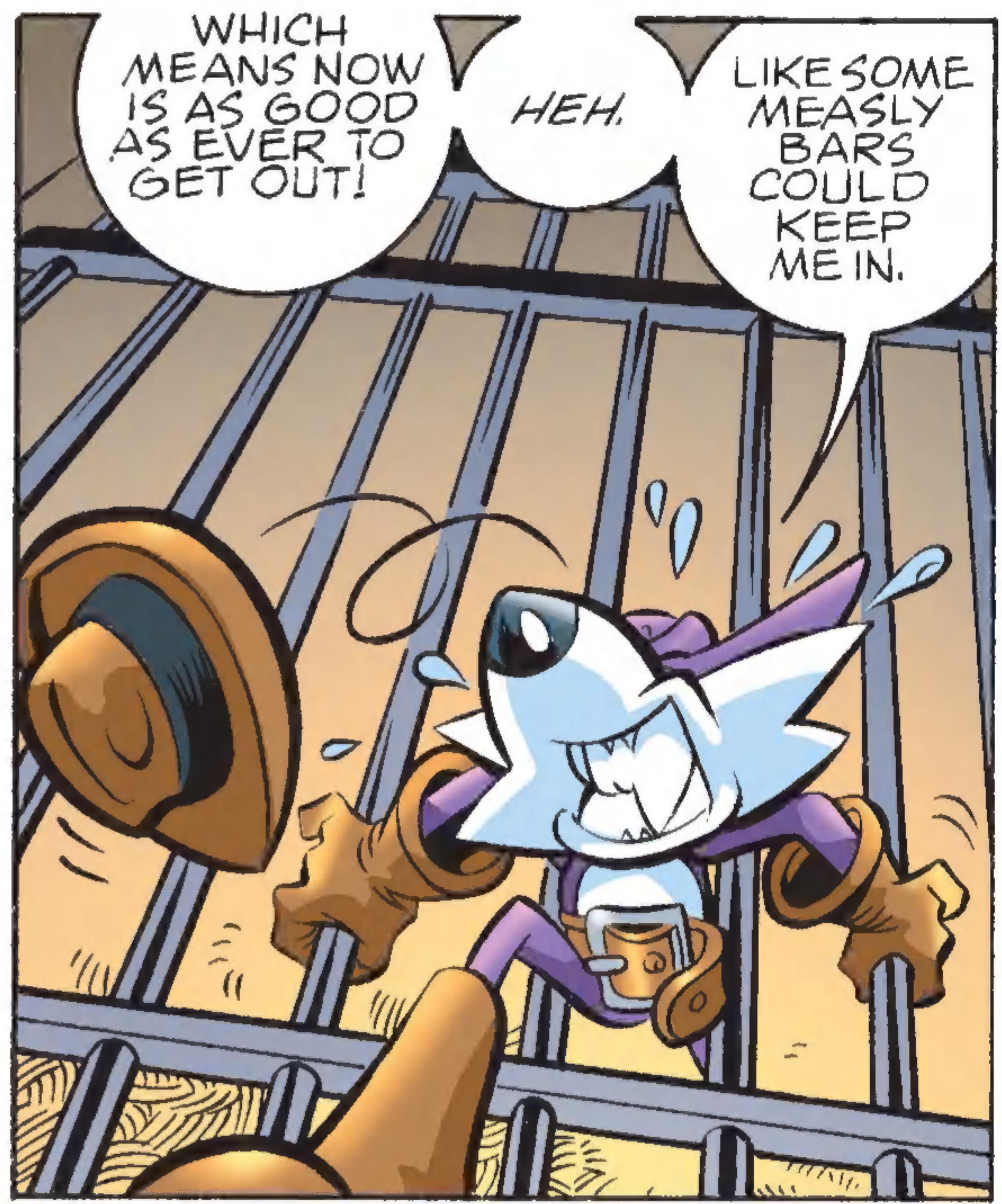
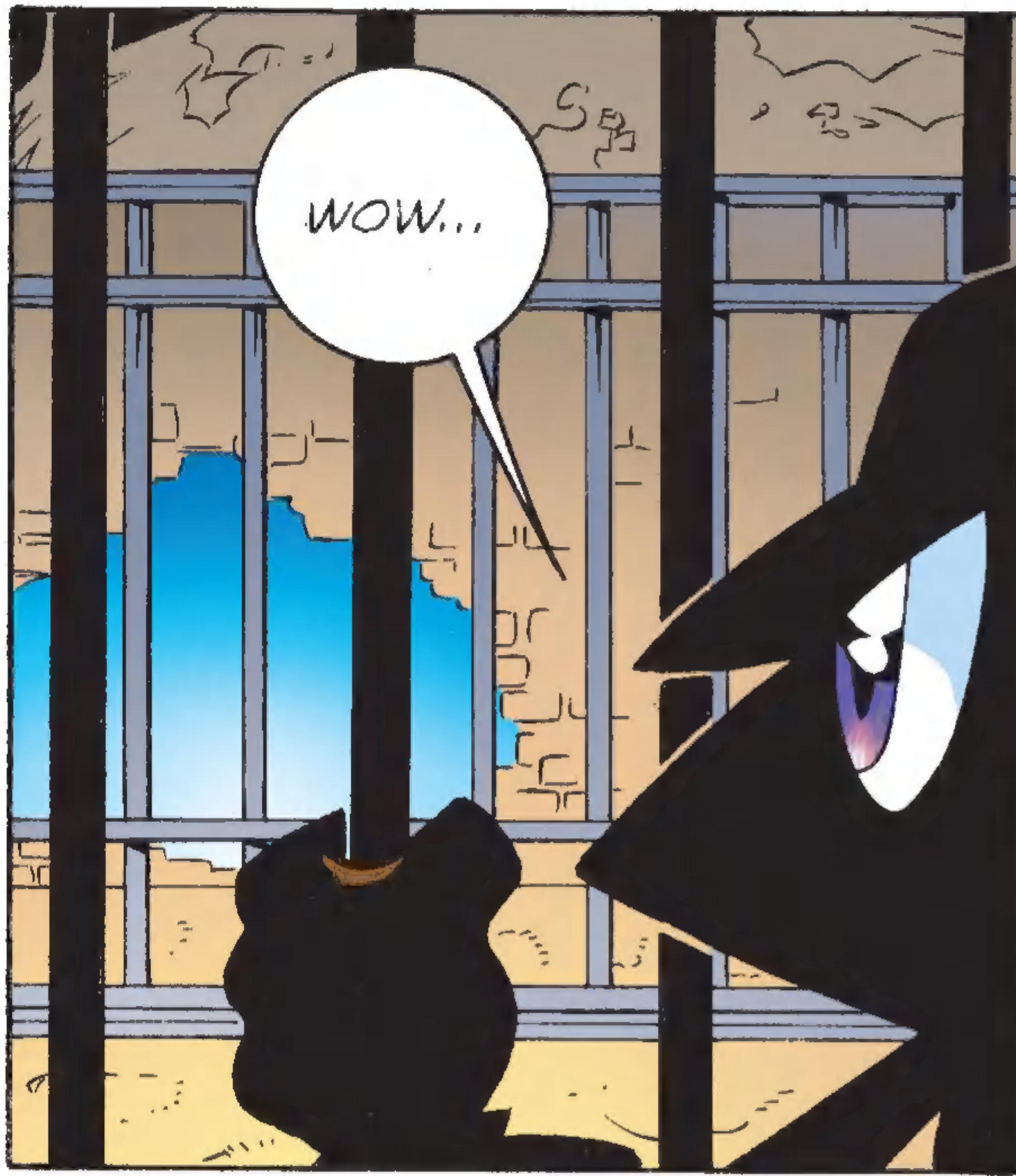
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FOOL! I AM IXIS NAUGUS, MASTER OF THE ELEMENTS! HE THAT FUSED THE VOID WITH THE ZONE OF SILENCE! THE LAST GREAT LORD OF THE ORDER OF ISIS!

YOU CANNOT FATHOM HOW INFERIOR YOU ARE IN COMPARISON. NOR ARE YOU THE LAST LORD OF THE ORDER. MY ORDER.

FOR YOUR SAKES, GUYS...

...I HOPE YOU CAN FIGHT AS MUCH AS YOU CAN TALK. WE'LL BE TAKING THOSE BACK NOW, BY THE WAY.



SWEET, SWEET,
DISCORD AND
STRIFE.



NOW TO MOVE THE FINAL PLAYER.

I HAVE FINISHED MY ANALYSIS, FATHER.

AND?

ONLY THE OCCUPIED EGG GRAPES WERE LOST TO THE ZONE OF SILENCE. YOU RETAIN ALL OF YOUR NON-OCCUPIED EGG GRAPES.

FOR WHAT GOOD IT DOES ME RIGHT NOW.

FEELING BETTER, DEAR?

YES, FATHER. I AM BACK AT PEAK EFFICIENCY.

I HAVE DETERMINED HOW THE SPIDER NINJAS INFILTRATED THIS AREA.

I HAVE FOUND WHO ORCHESTRATED ALL OF THIS.

EXCELLENT! GIVE US THE DETAILS, A.D.A.M.!

I HAVE FOUND PROOF THAT THE FAULT LIES WITH ANONYMOUS... WITH THE HELP OF MECHA.

WHAT?!
THAT... THAT IS NOT TRUE!

I HAVE PROOF. WATCH.

I HAVE ORGANIZED THE ORPHANED CHILDREN OF UMA ARACHNIS. THEY ARE STILL HONOR-BOUND TO SERVE IXIS NAUGUS.

GOOD. I WILL REMOTELY TRIGGER THE EGG GRAPES AT THE RIGHT TIME.

MY FATHER WILL BE OUT OF THE WAY AND WE CAN RULE, ANONYMOUS.

I AM SORRY, FATHER, THAT I COULD NOT RECORD WHO ANONYMOUS IS. HE USED SOME KIND OF FIELD THAT CORRUPTED MY DATA.

M...

FATHER, NO!
A.D.A.M. IS
...LYING!

I CANNOT LIE.
I ANALYZE AND
PROCESS!

MECHA "M"
ROBOTNIK!

...YES,
FATHER?

INITIATE
SELF-
DESTRUCT
NOW!

B-B-BUT,
F-F-FATHER...

DO
IT!

A.D.A.M.!

YES,
FATHER?

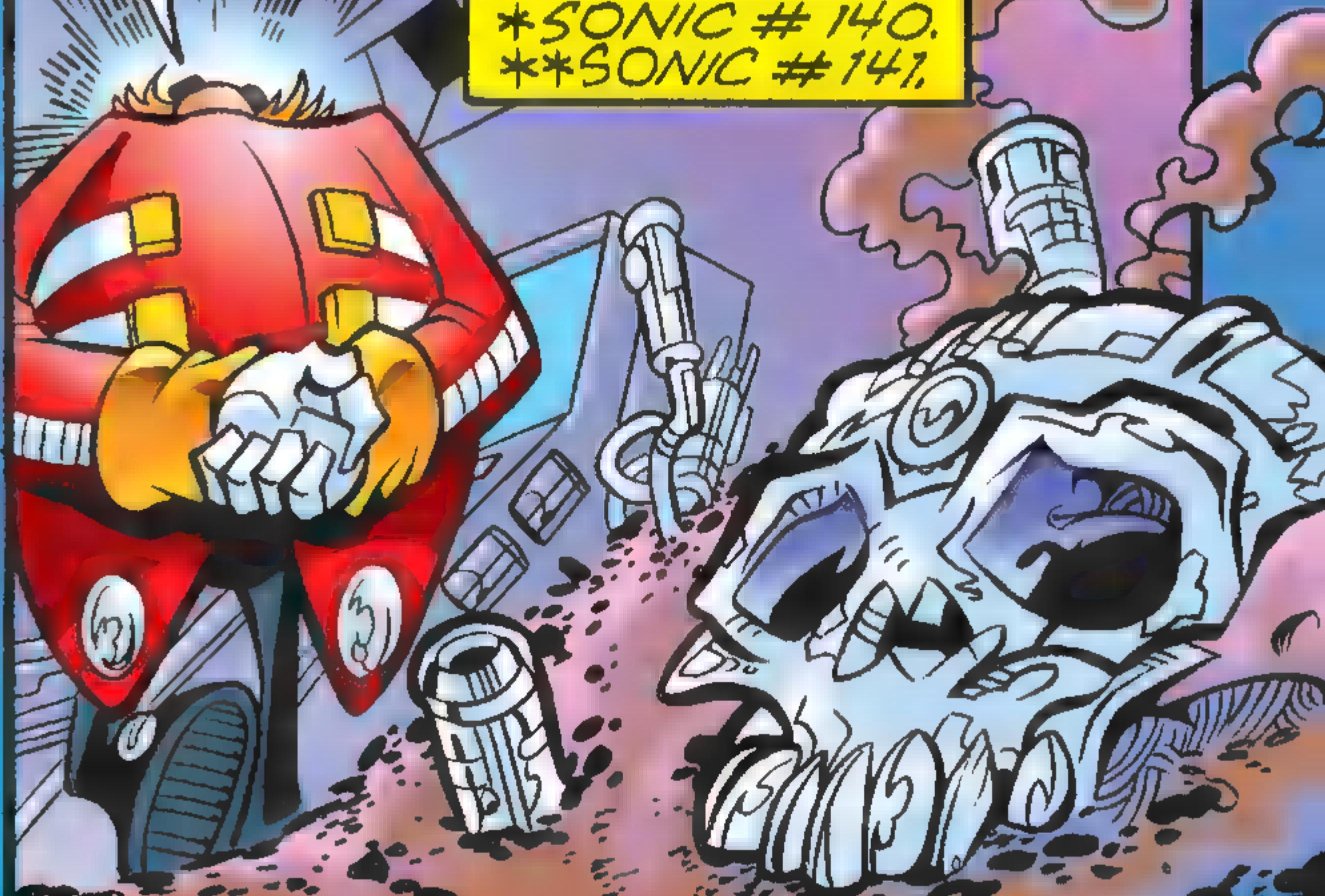
DELETE
ALL BACK-UPS
OF MECHA
ROBOTNIK'S DATA. I
DON'T WANT HER
COMING
BACK.

YES,
FATHER.

AND ANNIHILATE PROJECT
METAL SNIVELY.* NO MORE
OF THIS HENCHMAN NON-
SENSE. HUNTER COULDN'T
BOther TO SURVIVE A
DROP INTO THE OCEAN.**

MY OWN
DAUGHTER
BETRAYS
ME. NO
MORE OF IT.

*SONIC # 140.
**SONIC # 141.



ANNIHILATED, FATHER.
I HAVE SENT FOR A
CLEANING FLAPPER,
FATHER.

GOOD BOY, A.D.A.M.
NOW...WITH NAUGUS FREE,
I'LL BE FIGHTING FOR MORE
THAN JUST MY EMPIRE,
HE'LL BE COMING AFTER ME.

THE CLEANING FLAPPER
HAS ARRIVED, FATHER.

IF HE GETS
THE CROWN
OF ACORNS,
HE'LL HAVE THE
LAST SAMPLE
OF THE SOURCE
OF ALL.

IT DOESN'T DO MUCH
FOR ME, BUT IT SEEMS
TO BOOST A MAGICK-USER'S
POWER. WHICH IS WHAT I
DON'T NEED RIGHT NOW.

THE CLEANING FLAPPER
HAS ACTIVATED, FATHER,
AND I AM FINISHED
DELETING
FILES.

ALL RIGHT,
A.D.A.M.! SO
NOW I HAVE TO
STOP NAUGUS
BEFORE HE
DOES ANYTHING TO
HURT ME. BUT THAT
MEANS I'LL BE HELP-
ING SONIC AND HIS
FUZZY BUDDIES!

HE'LL NEVER
LET ME HEAR
THE END OF THAT!

ACT!

YOUR SPY-SATELLITES OVER
KNOTHOLE CITY SHOW IXIS
NAUGUS BATTLING MAMMOTH
MOGUL, SONIC THE HEDGEHOG,
AND EVERY A-RANKED
TARGET, FATHER.

A.D.A.M.,
I--!

I JUST CAME UP
WITH A DELIGHTFUL
CONTINGENCY PLAN.

I'M READY IN NEW MEGAOPOLIS...

NOW I CAN FULLY ENJOY THE BATTLES IN KNOTHOLE CITY!

ARGH!

HOW DO YOU MANAGE TO TRUMP EACH ELEMENTAL SPELL I CAST?!

I WILL CONCEDE YOUR PROFICIENCY IN THE ARCAN ARTS IS EXCELLENT--

--HOWEVER, YOU STILL PALE IN COMPARISON WITH MY OWN MASTERY OF THE IXIAN MAGICKS.

A TRULY ADVANCED TECHNIQUE FOR AN IXIS MAGICIAN, BUT YOU HAVE RELIED TOO HEAVILY ON YOUR ZONE OF SILENCE.

N-NO! I PERFECTED THE CRYSTALLINE MAGICKS!

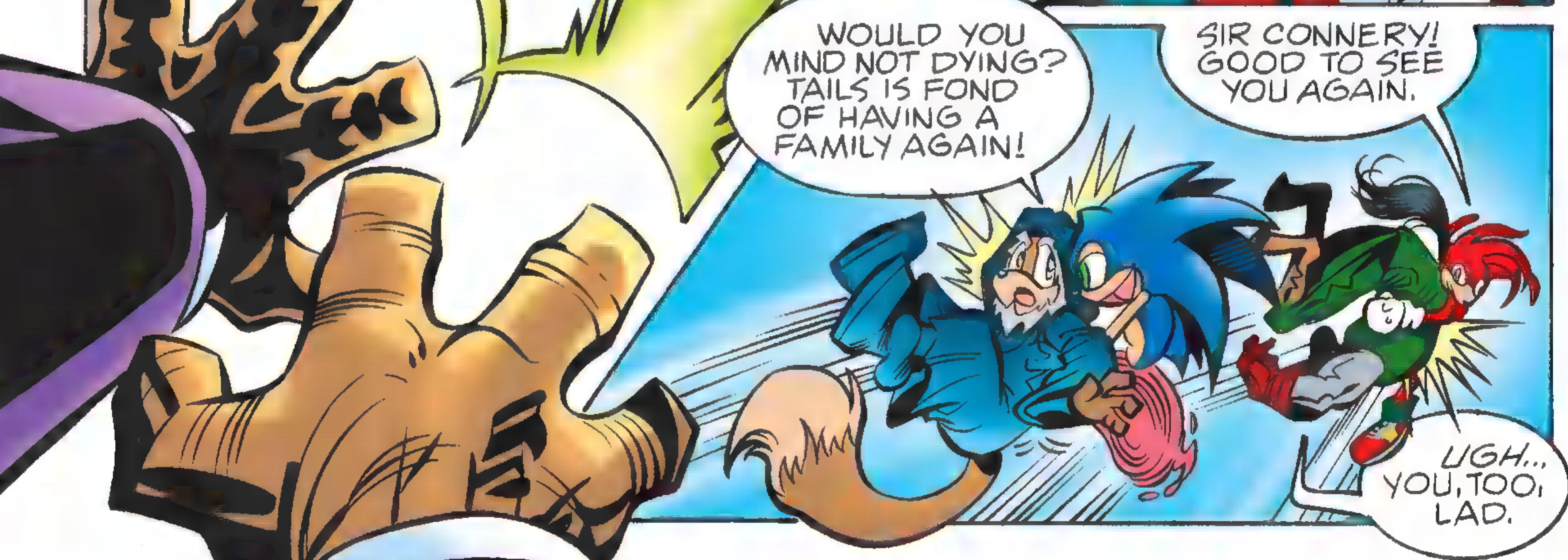
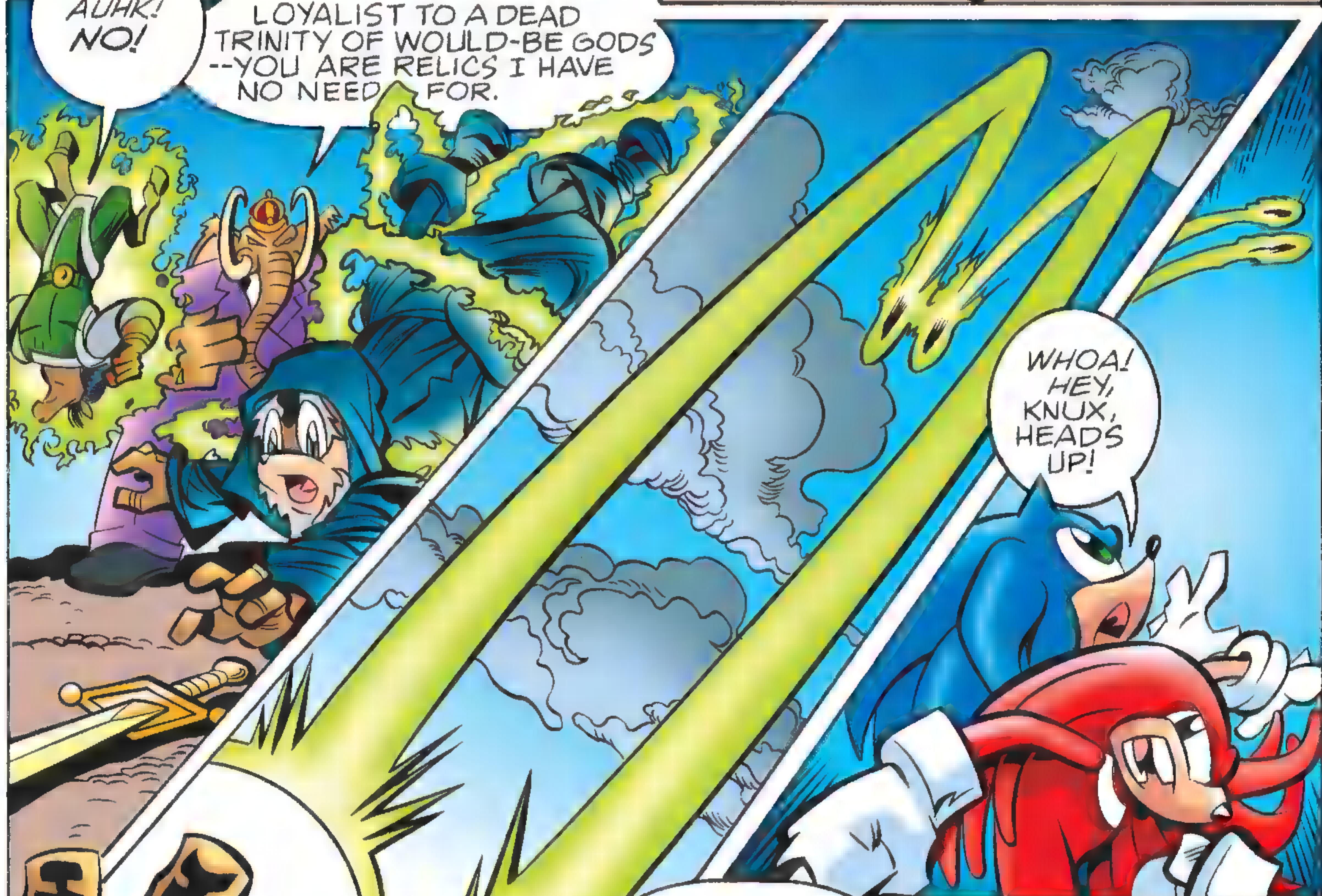
THEN PERHAPS I CAN PERSUADE YOU OTHERWISE? SOMEONE OF YOUR POWER WOULD MAKE A FINE PAWN WHEN PROPERLY POSSESSED!

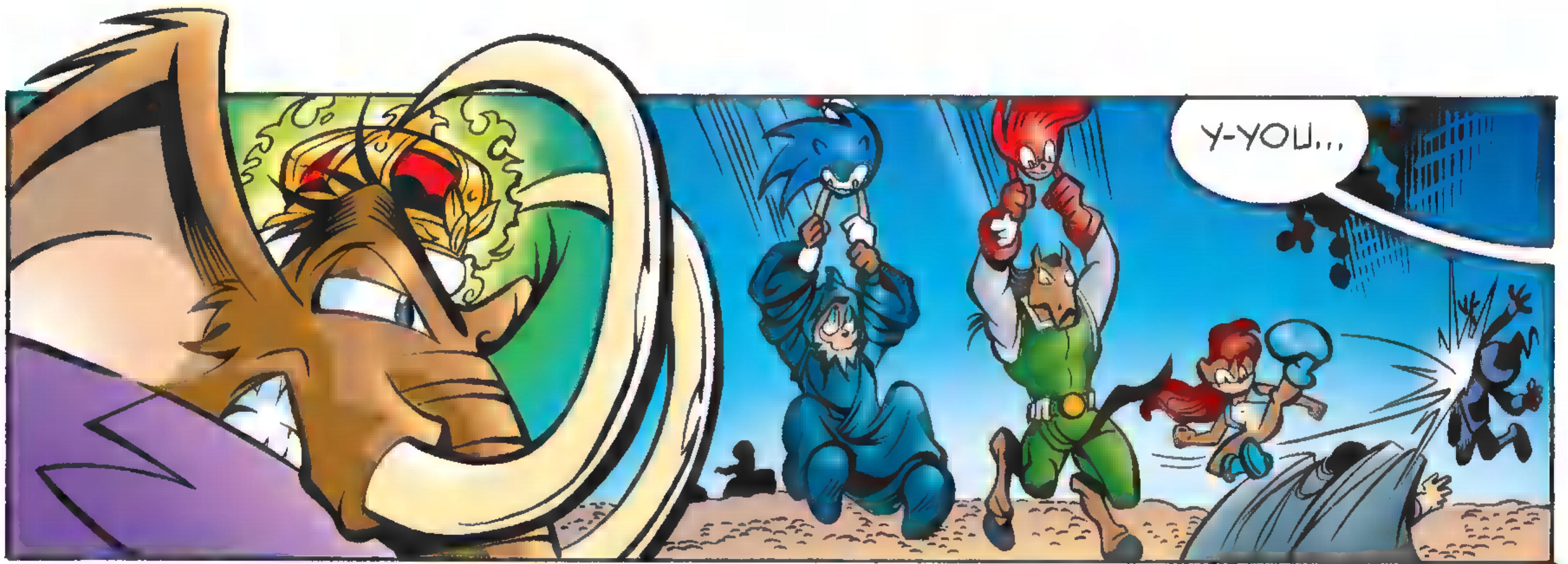
NAUGUS...

...DO NOT PRETEND TO BE OF MY MENTAL CALIBER.

MOGUL IS JUST TOYING WITH HIM. I THINK I KNOW WHERE THIS IS GOING. WE MUST GET ONE OF THE ARTIFACTS WHILE WE CAN.

AYE. GO FOR THE SWORD OF ACORNS. I SHALL PROTECT YOU.



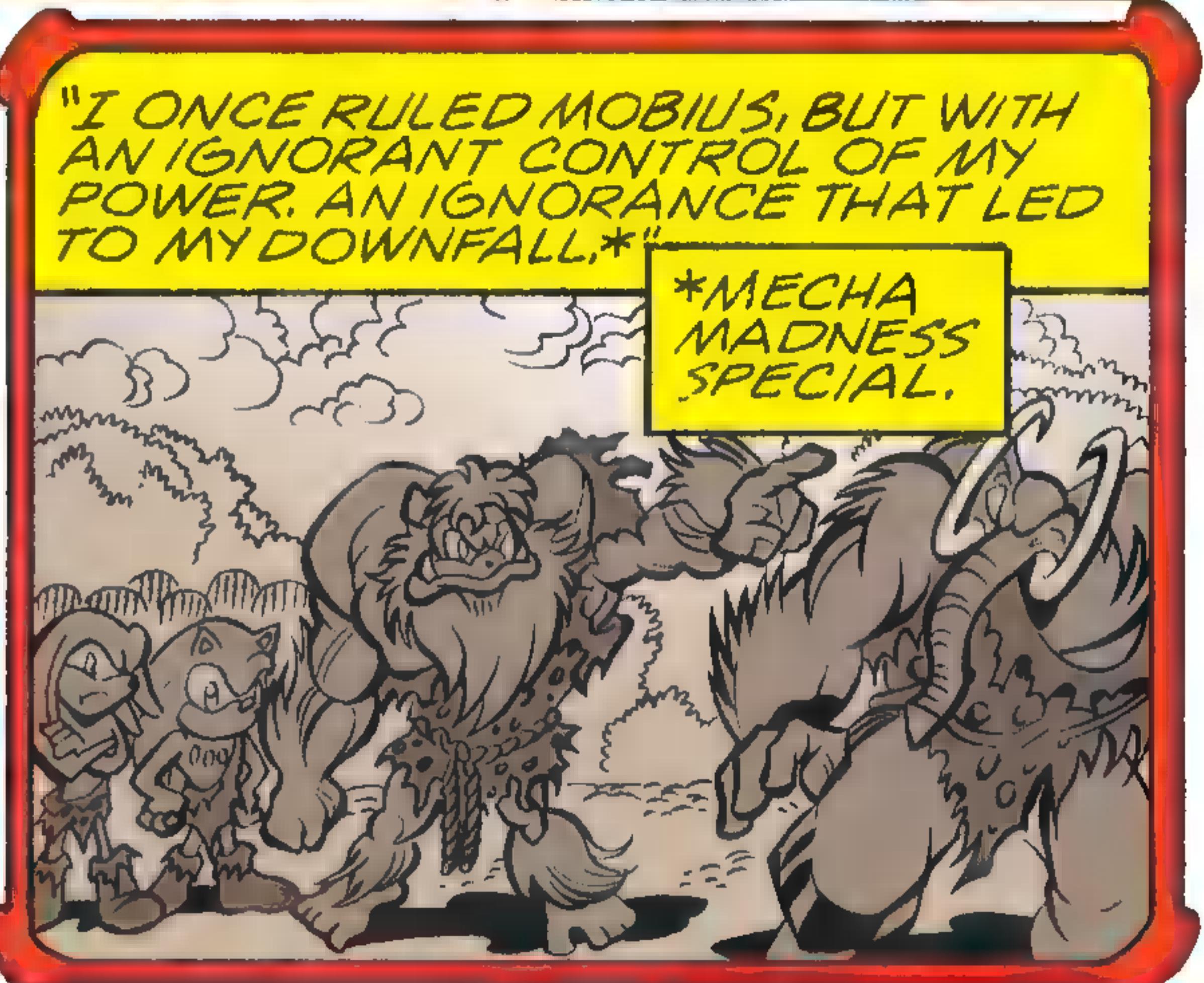
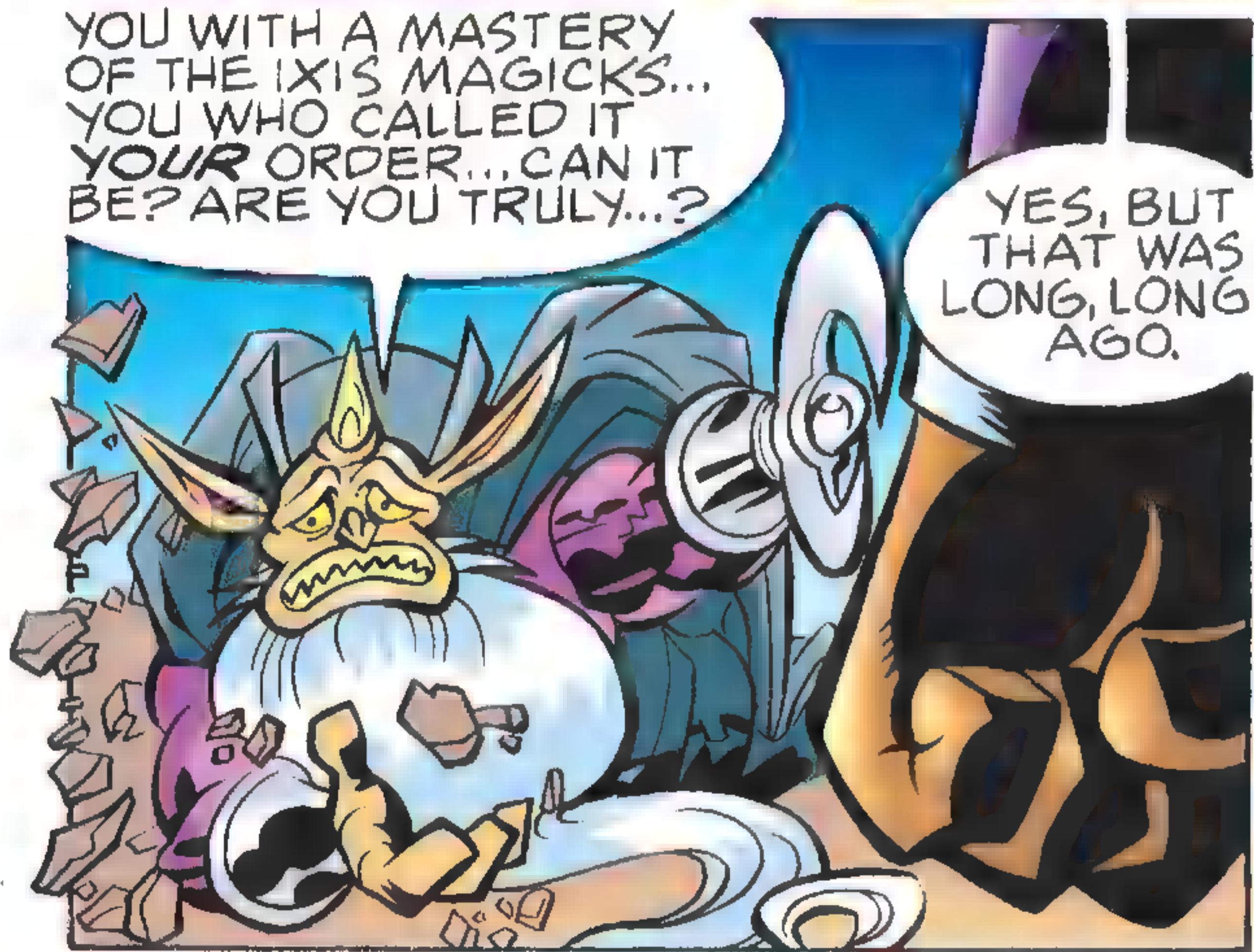


YOU WITH A MASTERY
OF THE IXIS MAGICKS...
YOU WHO CALLED IT
YOUR ORDER... CAN IT
BE? ARE YOU TRULY...?

YES, BUT
THAT WAS
LONG, LONG
AGO.

"I ONCE RULED MOBIUS, BUT WITH
AN IGNORANT CONTROL OF MY
POWER, AN IGNORANCE THAT LED
TO MY DOWNFALL."

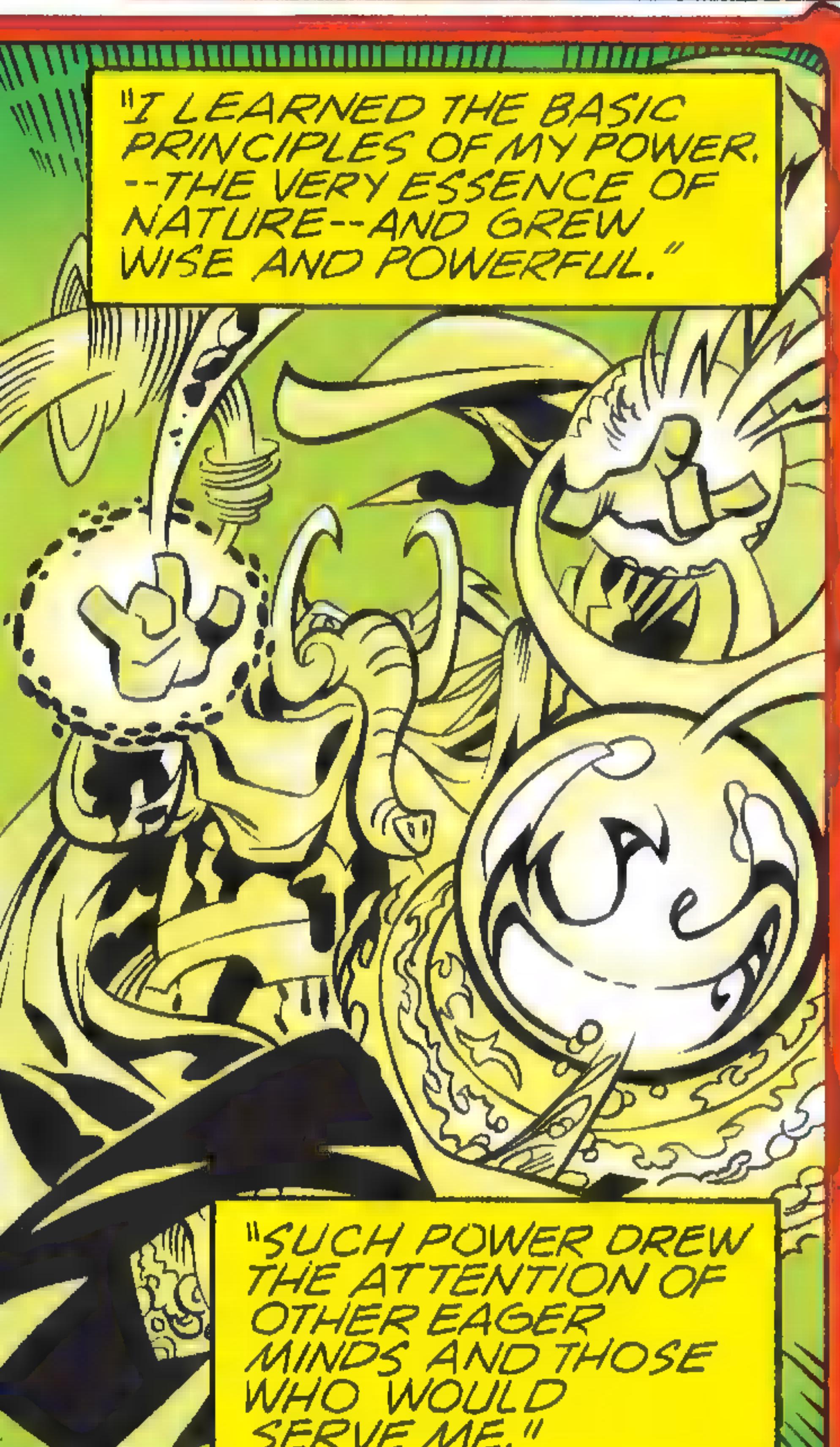
*MECHA
MADNESS
SPECIAL.



"I LEARNED THE BASIC
PRINCIPLES OF MY POWER,
--THE VERY ESSENCE OF
NATURE--AND GREW
WISE AND POWERFUL."

"BUT MY ORDER
OF IXIS WAS
NOT MEANT
TO BE."

"OUR BID FOR WORLD DOM-
INATION WAS CRUSHED
DURING THE FORGOTTEN
WAR WITH THE ALBION
KNIGHTS OF AURORA."



"SUCH POWER DREW
THE ATTENTION OF
OTHER EAGER
MINDS AND THOSE
WHO WOULD
SERVE ME."

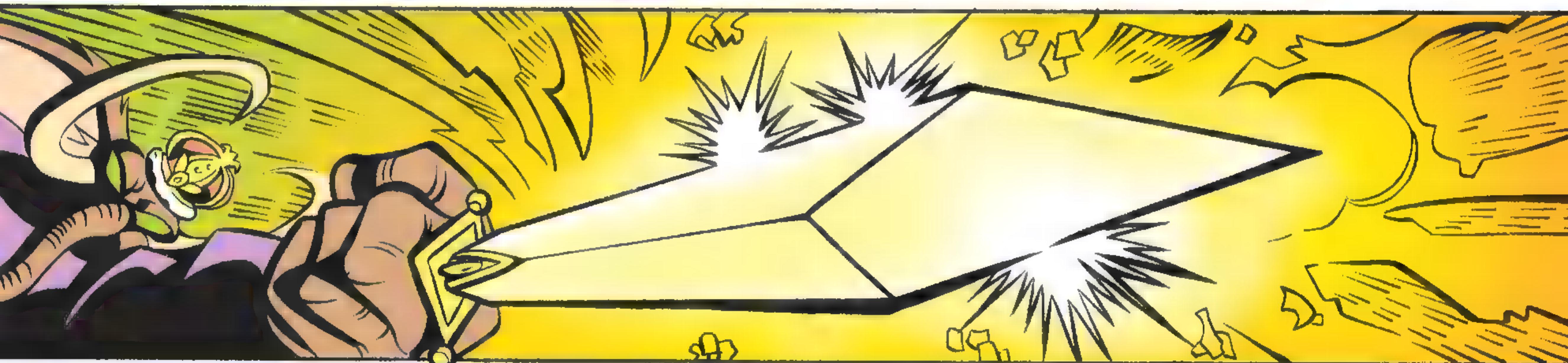
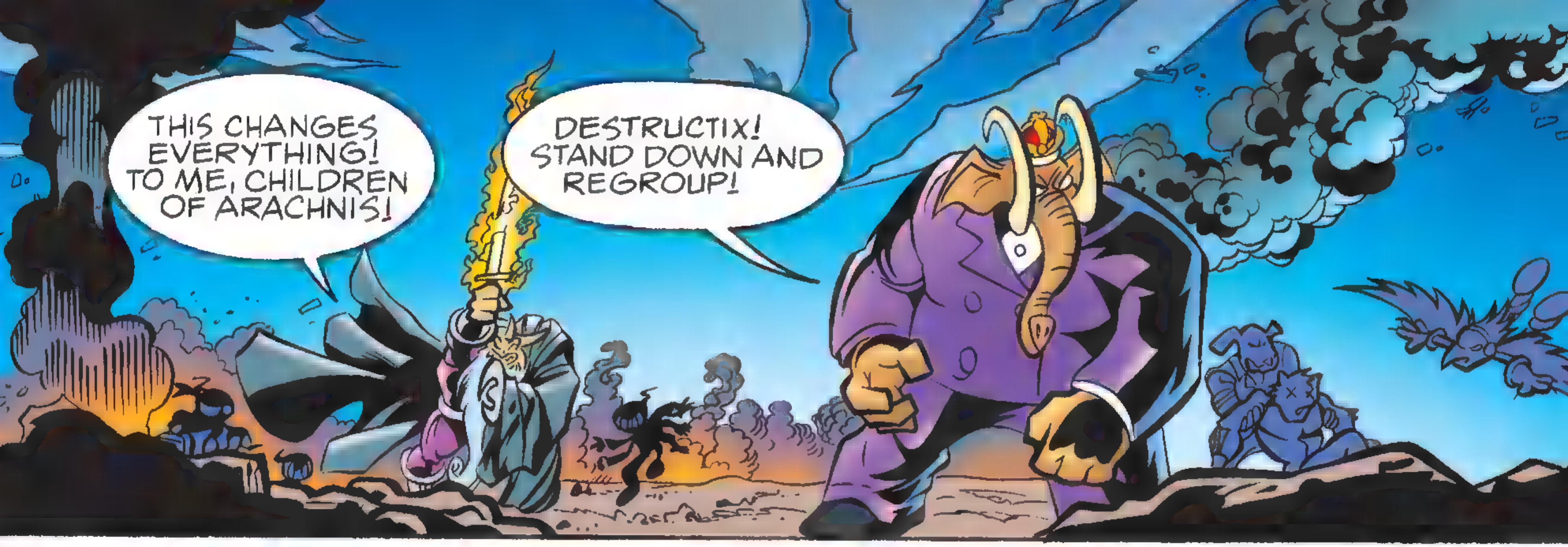


"I THOUGHT ALL OF MY
FOLLOWERS HAD BEEN
ERADICATED IN THAT
CONFRONTATION. I
SEE THAT AT LEAST
ONE HAS REMAINED."

THEN IT'S
TRUE! YOUR
POWER, YOUR
KNOWLEDGE,
IT MUST
MEAN...!"

YES, NAUGUS,
I WAS ONCE
KNOWN AS
IXIS
MOGUL.





NOW THEN,
GENTLEMEN...
WHO'S UP
FOR SOME
REVENGE?

PHASE TWO--
COMPLETE!

To Be CONCLUDED...

SONIC RIDERS™

PART 1
OF 2

HA!

C'MON
YA STUPID
BOTS!

CAN'T
YOU GO ANY
FASTER THAN
THAT?



WRITER
IAN FLYNN

PENCILS
TRACY
YARDLEY

INKS
JIM
AMASH

LETTERS
TERESA
DAVIDSON

EDITOR
MIKE
PELLERITO

MANAGING
EDITOR
VICTOR
GORELICK

EDITOR-
IN-CHIEF
RICHARD
GOLDWATER

SPECIAL THANKS
TO ROBERT LEFFLER
AND DINA LOPEZ
AT SEGA LICENSING
AND TEAM SONIC



WELL DONE,
MY EGG MECHAS!
NOW BRING THE
THIEF TO ME!



SO YOU THOUGHT
YOU COULD STEAL
MY VAPOR ACCELERATOR,
DID YOU?

I SUPPOSE
YOU PLANNED
TO UPGRADE YOUR
AIR BOARD?

THIS IS A
REMARKABLE DEVICE!
YOU WERE GOING AS
FAST AS SONIC
ON THIS!

IF ONLY
HE'D RUN
INTO AN EGG
HAMMER...

HEY, TIMES
HAVE BEEN
TOUGH SINCE
I QUIT THE
ARMADA.

SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG?

FASTESE
THING
ALIVE?
HERO OF
MOBIUS?

NEVER
HEARD OF
THE FRAUD.

I'M THE FASTEST
GUY AROUND.
AND I'LL MAKE
SURE THIS SONIC GUY
REMEMBERS IT.

WHO'S
THIS
SONIC
GUY?

I LIKE THAT
ATTITUDE.

TELL YOU
WHAT-- YOU WORK
FOR ME AND ROUGH
UP SONIC, AND I
WON'T KILL YOU,
DEAL?

SOUNDS LIKE
A PLAN.

CAN I
BRING SOME
FRIENDS?

A dynamic comic panel featuring Sonic the Hedgehog. In the top right, a smaller inset shows Sonic running through a jungle with a determined expression. In the main panel, Sonic is shown from behind, riding a large green motorcycle-like vehicle. He is looking over his shoulder at two other characters: a pink hedgehog with purple wings and a grey bird-like creature wearing goggles and a helmet. The pink hedgehog says, "HERE, MAYBE?" The grey bird replies, "YOU DON'T LOOK SO FAST." In the bottom left, a close-up of Sonic's face shows him smiling mischievously with the text, "WANNA BET?"

ALRIGHT!

NICOLE SAID
THE SENSORS PICKED
UP THE INTRUDER
A FEW MILES FROM
FREEDOM HQ.

THAT MEANS
HE OUGHT TO BE
SOMEWHERE
AROUND--

HERE, MAYBE?

YOU DON'T
LOOK SO
FAST.

WANNA
BET?

DR. EGGMAN HAS NEW SLOW-POKES FOR LACKIES, huh?

YOU'RE ALREADY BREAKING A SWEAT, SNAIL.

AFTER I BEAT YOU, WE'LL MOVE ON TO KNOTHOLE.

IF YOU CAN KEEP UP WE'LL LET YOU WATCH.

YOU'RE ALL TALK AND NO SPEED, BIRD-BOY.

DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK YOU COULD STOP THE FASTEST HEDGEHOG ON MOBIUS?

YOU MAY
BE FAST, BUT
ARE YOU THE
STRONGEST?

OR THE MOST
SKILLED?

AND FOR
THE RECORDS,
I'M THE
FASTEST!

WE HAVEN'T
INTRODUCED
OURSELVES
TO THE VICTIM
YET.

HOW RUDE
OF US.

WHATEVER.



**NEXT MONTH: HOW CAN SONIC
KEEP UP WITH THE BABYLON
ROGUES? MAYBE WITH A LITTLE
HELP FROM HIS FRIENDS!**

**LOOK FOR SONIC X #10 ON SALE THIS JUNE!
THEN COME BACK FOR SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
#164 ON SALE THIS AUGUST!**

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